

# MC3 University Center Gains Space

by Marc Easi  
Contributing Writer

A historic railroad depot is now a stop for many Montgomery County Community College students who want a bachelor's or master's degree.

The college's new expanded University Center at 95 S. Hanover St. in Pottstown opened on Aug. 21, marking a West Campus expansion that seeks to draw more students from Montgomery, Chester and Berks counties.

"Before we introduced the innovative University Center model [in 2006], our graduates had to travel to the greater Reading and Philadelphia areas to continue their education in baccalaureate and graduate degree programs," college President Dr. Karen Stout said in a statement. "However, for many of our students and community members in the Tri-County region, this commute simply isn't possible. Therefore, the University Center becomes more than a place where our partner institutions lease space to teach their classes on our campus. It becomes part of a much larger pipeline in terms of building student access to higher education."

At 10,500 square feet, the expanded University Center includes six classrooms with computers and video equipment and a student lounge. Additionally, according to the college, the University Center frees up classroom space in North and South halls at the West Campus, which has experienced a 60 percent growth in enrollment over the past five years.

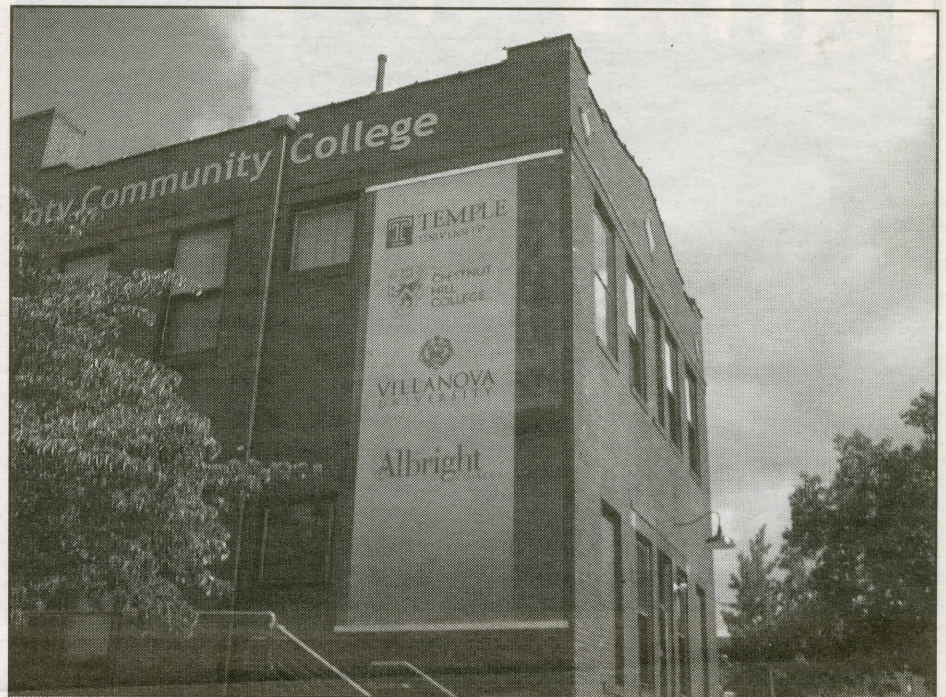
Partner colleges and universities include Albright College, which offers bachelor's degrees in accounting, business administration, crime and justice, applied psychology and organizational behavior and information systems; Chestnut Hill College, which offers a bachelor's degree in human services and a master's degree in administration of human services; Temple University, which offers a master's degree in education as well as a certificate in teaching in higher education; and Villanova University, which offers a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies in leadership studies.

Albright and MCCC alumnus Charles Roberts said the University Center was instrumental in his pursuit of higher education.

"I cannot begin to tell you where I would be without having the University Center," said Roberts, who has since earned a master's degree from Gwynedd-Mercy College and who works in the MCCC Enrollment Services Department. "I may never have attempted a bachelor's program unless the University Center existed."

Dr. Steady Moono runs the University Center and says the space continues to meet many needs of the community. He added that it will even be possible for some students to complete their doctoral studies at the center.

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Alex Berman / The Montgazette

The University Center offers bachelor's and master's degrees from 4 local universities.

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